

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings, of the claims in this application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1 - 36 (cancelled).

Claim 37 (new).        A process for manufacturing gelatinized films for soft capsules, the process comprising:

- (a)     dissolving at least one thickening agent in an aqueous or hydroalcoholic dissolution medium to form a viscous encapsulating mass;
- (b)     forming an ungelled film from the encapsulating mass;
- (c)     providing a complexing solution comprising a film complexing agent to gel the ungelled film; and
- (d)     contacting the ungelled film with the complexing solution to instantly gel the ungelled film to provide a gelled film.

Claim 38 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the at least one thickening agent is selected from the group consisting of arabic gums and their derivatives, lambda carrageenan, pullulan gums and their derivatives, rhamosan gums and their derivatives, and wellan gums and their derivatives.

Claim 39 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the concentration of the at least one thickening agent is between 2% and 80% by weight, relative to the final weight of the preparation.

Claim 40 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the encapsulating mass comprising a blend of two or more thickening agents.

Claim 41 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the dissolution medium is a hydroalcoholic medium, and the

proportion of the alcohol for thickening agent dissolution in the hydro alcoholic medium varies from 10% to 90% by weight, relative to the total weight of the dissolution medium.

Claim 42 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the dissolution medium further comprising at least one sodium or potassium salt to increase solubilization of the at least one thickening agent.

Claim 43 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 42, wherein the proportion of the sodium or potassium salt varies from 0 to 50% by weight, relative to the final weight of the preparation.

Claim 44 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the dissolution medium having an aqueous phase, wherein the pH of the aqueous phase of thickening agent dissolution medium varies from 2 to 12.

Claim 45 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the dissolution medium having an aqueous phase, wherein the pH of the aqueous phase is controlled with a buffered solution selected from the group consisting of hydrochloric acid/sodium chloride, hydrochloric acid/potassium phthalate, hydrochloric acid/glycine, citric acid/citrates, citric acid/sodium hydroxide, lactic acid/lactate, monosodium phosphate/disodium phosphate, monopotassium phosphate/dipotassium phosphate, bicarbonate/carbonate, and potassium diphthalate/hydrochloric acid.

Claim 46 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the encapsulating mass further comprising at least one polyol plasticizer selected from the group consisting of glycerol, sorbitol, maltodextrins, dextrose, manitol, xylitol, lactitol, propylene glycol, polyoxyethylene glycol 400 to 6000, natural and semi synthetic glycerides, and their derivatives.

Claim 47 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 46, wherein the proportion of the at least one polyol plasticizer varies from 0 to 50% by weight, relative to the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 48 (new)        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, the encapsulating mass further comprising at least one surfactant selected from the group consisting of ionic surfactants, non ionic surfactants, and amphoteric surfactants.

Claim 49 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 48, wherein the surfactant content of the encapsulating mass varies from 0 to 20%.

Claim 50 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the encapsulating mass further comprising at least one disintegrating agent, associated or not with surfactants, the at least one disintegrating agent being a soluble starch selected from the group consisting of potato starch, corn starch, rice starch, manioc starch and wheat starch derivatives, the derivatives having been or not chemically or/and physically modified.

Claim 51 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 50, wherein the at least one disintegrating agent comprises between 0 and 50% by weight, relative to the total weight of the preparation.

Claim 52 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the concentration of solid material in the encapsulating mass is between 10% and 80% by weight, relative to the final weight of the composition.

Claim 53 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the film complexing agent solution is a saline solution of a mineral or organic acid, a hydroalcoholic solution, or a mixture of a saline solution of a mineral or organic acid and a hydroalcoholic solution.

Claim 54 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing solution being a hydroalcoholic solution, wherein the hydroalcoholic complexing solution contains ethanol, methanol, propanol, isopropanol, or butanol.

Claim 55 (new)        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a hydroalcoholic solution, wherein the hydroalcoholic solution contains between 10% and 90% of alcohol by weight, relative to the final volume of the hydroalcoholic complexing solution.

Claim 56 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a saline solution, wherein the saline complexing solution includes at least one ion selected from the group consisting of calcium ion, barium ion, titanium containing ions, zinc ion, aluminum containing ions, sulfur containing ions, and siliceous ions.

Claim 57 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 53, the film complexing agent solution being a saline solution, wherein the concentration of salt in the saline complexing solution ranges from 1% to the saturation of the solution.

Claim 58 (new)        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the ungelled film is contacted with the complexing solution by spraying complexing solution onto the ungelled film, dipping the ungelled film into the complexing solution, or both.

Claim 59 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, wherein the ungelled film is contacted with the complexing solution for between 10 seconds and 10 minutes.

Claim 60 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, further comprising drying the gelled film in an air stream at a temperature between  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $+70^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Claim 61 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, further comprising sealing the gelled film under pressure and at a temperature between  $50^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $100^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

Claim 62 (new).        A process for manufacturing films for soft capsules according to claim 37, further comprising encapsulating an aqueous and/or oily solution with the gelled film.